



The Mission Inn Hotel Architecture Series

The International Rotunda Wing: Iron Initials

HISTORY

NOTE: See the Mission Inn Hotel Architecture Series: *The International Rotunda Wing: Ceramic Tiles – History Metal Initials and Ceramic Tiles*

Aside from its unique architectural design, the Rotunda Wing hosts a variety of unique elements including metal railings inscribed with initials and unique ceramic tiles (**NOTE: See week 4 activity for more information on the tiles**).

Metal Initials

At the time the Rotunda was built historical figures associated with the California Missions were considered some of California's first heroes. Frank Miller wanted to honor these heroes by incorporating them into the Rotunda Wing.

On the second and third floor, important figures in early California and Mission history are represented by their initials.



On the fourth floor, the metal railing contains initials from 11 of the 21 California Missions, ten are missing. It is unknown why they are absent from the railing.

Here is information about a few of these iron initials:

Second Floor

- ***PJS***: *Padre Junípero Serra* (1713-1794), played a large role in the creation of the California Mission system. “He was appointed father president of the Baja California Missions.”¹
- ***PFP***: *Padre Francisco Palóu* (1723-1789), was a student and friend of *Father Junípero Serra* and succeeded him as father president. One of his most important contributions to history was his detailed account of the life of his mentor, *Father Junípero Serra*.²
- ***JRC***: *Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo*, lead “the first European expedition to explore what is now the West Coast of the United States”.³

Third Floor

¹ Mission Inn Foundation. The Mission Inn International Rotunda: A History of the International Tiles and Iron Initials. California: Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 8

² Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 8

³ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 9



- **PJBS:** *Padre José Bernardo Sanchez* (1778-1883), he served the California Missions for 30 years and was father president from 1828-1831.⁴

Fourth Floor:

- **SLRF:** Stands for *Mission San Luis Rey de Francia*, which was founded in 1798; is in current day Oceanside, CA. The existing church is “considered one of the most beautiful”.⁵
- **RA:** *Mission San Rafael, Arcángel*, which was founded in 1817. It was used as a “sanatorium for Indians from Mission San Francisco”.⁶
- **SFS:** *Mission San Francisco Solano*, which was founded in 1823. The last California Mission, which was eventually incorporated into Sonoma State Historic Park.⁷

⁴ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 8

⁵ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 5

⁶ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 5

⁷ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 5



Initials by Floor

Fourth Floor	Third Floor	Second Floor
SLRF: San Luis Rey de Francia	PJBS: Padre José Bernardo Sanchez	PFP: Padre Francisco Palóu
SI: Santa Inés, Virgen y Mártir	PFGD: Padre Francisco García Diego y Moreno	PFFL: Padre Fermín Francisco de Lasuén
SFS: San Francisco Solano	PJJJ: Padre José Joaquin Jimeno	PET: Padre Estevan Tapis
RA: San Rafael, Arcángel	PFG: Padre Francisco Gomez	PJS: Padre José Señan
PC: La Purísima Concepción de María Santísima		PMP: Padre Mariano Payeras
SC: La Exaltación de la Santa Cruz		PVS: Padre Vincente de Sarria
NSS: Nuestra Señora de la Soledad		PND: Padre Narciso Durán
SJG: Mission del Gloriosísimo Patriarca San José		PJS: Padre Junípero Serra
SJB: San Juan Bautista		VN de B: Vasco Núñez de Balboa
SMA: San Miguel, Arcángel		JRC: Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo
SFRE: San Fernando Rey de España		SV: Sebastian Vizcaíno
		G de P: Gaspar de Portolá
		JB de A: Juan Bautista de Anza



ACTIVITY

Today we are going to create and decorate our initials to place on our wall at home!

Materials:

- 1-3 sheets of blank paper
- Empty Cereal Box (Could use a cardboard box)
- Scissors
- Hot Glue (Be sure to have an adult assist) or Regular Glue
- Crayons/Markers
- Items to decorate initials (Yarn, craft sticks and printed design show in example)

Directions:

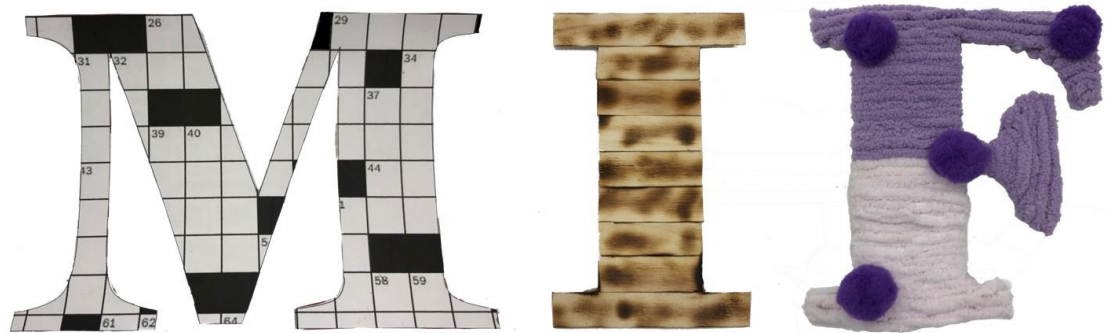
1. Draw large uppercase initials on paper.
 - a. **PRO TIP:** Using Microsoft word fonts print out large letter style to cut out.
 - i. Font used in image: “Georgia Pro Black”
 - ii. Font size: 600
 - iii. Font Color Fill: None
 - iv. Font Color Outline: Black
2. Cut out initials.

3. Unfold the cereal box, then trace initials on the cereal



box.

4. Cut out initials from the cereal box.
5. Decorate initials as desired



6. Share your initials with us!



Content Resources

If you are interested in learning more history about the International Rotunda and the Ceramic Tiles, check out the resources below.

Mission Inn Foundation. *The Mission Inn International Rotunda: A History of the International Tiles and Iron Initials*. California: Mission Inn Foundation, 2015.

Friends of the Mission Inn. *Historic: Mission Inn*. California: Friends of the Mission Inn, 1998.